WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Setting up of atomic energy plants for tribal areas

†3812. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to overtaping of hydel power and uncertain and expensive availability of coal for thermal energy, the only option available in Rajasthan is atomic energy; and

(b) whether Government would make arrangements for setting up four units of one thousand megawatt each, so that energy demand of tribal areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat could be met by the year 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) While coal and hydel power would continue to remain the dominant fraction, nuclear power would also become increasingly important contributor to electricity generation capacity in the country. At present, six nuclear reactors with 1180 MWe electricity generating capacity are in operation in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Apart from the nuclear reactors in operation, two units of 220 MWe are in advanced stage of completion in Rajasthan and four more units of 700 MWe reactors are planned to be set up in Rajasthan and Gujarat during XI Five Year Plan.

Indo-US agreement on atomic energy

† 3813.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an agreement on atomic energy was signed between the Prime Minister of India and President of America in the past years, involving the two countries;

(b) if so, whether in order to execute this agreement, any talks between the two countries have been held so far at various levels;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the number of times such talks have been held; and

(d) the decisions taken so far during such talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India and US have entered into an understanding to resume civil nuclear energy cooperation. This understanding is as laid out in the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 issued during the visit of Prime Minister to Washington DC.

(b) to (d) Currently, India and US are engaged in negotiations to conclude a bilateral civil nuclear cooperation agreement. So far, both sides have held four rounds of discussions. The first round took place in New Delhi from June 12-14, 2006; the second in New Delhi from March 25-27,2007; the third in Cape Town from April 16-19,2007; and the fourth in Washington on April 30 and May 1, 2007. Discussions are continuing with a view to finalising the bilateral cooperation agreement in civil nuclear energy.

Atomic energy generation projects in India

†3814. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are seven atomic energy generation projects in India with a generation capacity of 3380 megawatts;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are five such projects in Russia and China but with over 4000 MWe capacity;

(d) if so, whether it also a fact that the technique adopted in the field of atomic energy in India is expected to be more costlier in comparison to above countries; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons behind not setting up projects in India on the lines of those in Russia and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There are 6 nuclear power

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.